

# Kundal Shahi language

**Kundal Shahi** is a Dardic language spoken by about 700 people in the Kundal Shahi village of Neelam Valley in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. It is an endangered language and its speakers are shifting to Hindko.

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## Phonology

The following tables set out the phonology of Kundal Shahi.<sup>[3]</sup>

### Vowels

Kundal Shahi is unusual amongst Dardic languages in that it has front rounded vowels.<sup>[4]</sup>

	Front		Central	Back
	unrounded	rounded	unrounded	rounded
Close	i i:	y y:		u u:
Close-Mid	e e:	ø:	ə	o o:
Open-Mid	ɛ ɛ:		ʌ	ɔ ɔ:
Open			a a:	

### Consonants

Like Kashmiri, Kundal Shahi is unusual amongst Dardic languages in that it lacks retroflex fricatives and affricates.<sup>[4]</sup>

<b>Kundal Shahi</b>	
<b>کندل شاہی</b>	
<b>Native to</b>	Pakistan
<b>Region</b>	Neelam Valley
<b>Native speakers</b>	700 (2005) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indo-Iranian</li> <li>▪ Indo-Aryan</li> <li>▪ Dardic</li> <li>▪ Kundal Shahi</li> </ul>
<b>Language codes</b>	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	shd
<b>Glottolog</b>	kund1257 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kund1257">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kund1257</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>
	
	
Coordinates: 34.5548°N 73.8439°E	

		Labial	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
<b>Nasal</b>		m	n	ɳ		(ɳ)	
<b>Plosive</b>	<u>voiceless</u>	p	t	t̪		k	
	<u>aspirated</u>	p <sup>h</sup>	t <sup>h</sup>	t̪ <sup>h</sup>		k <sup>h</sup>	
	<u>voiced</u>	b	d	ɖ		g	
<b>Affricate</b>	<u>voiceless</u>				tʃ		
	<u>aspirated</u>				tʃ <sup>h</sup>		
	<u>voiced</u>				dʒ		
<b>Fricative</b>	<u>voiceless</u>	f	s		ʃ	x	h
	<u>voiced</u>		z				
<b>Lateral</b>		l					
<b>Flap</b>		r	ʈ				
<b>Approximant</b>				j	w		

## Tone

Kundal Shahi, like many Dardic languages, has either phonemic tone or, as in Kundal Shahi, pitch accent.<sup>[5]</sup> Words may have only one accented mora, which is associated with high pitch; the remaining mora have a default or low pitch.<sup>[4]</sup>

## References

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1. Kundal Shahi (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/shd/>) at Ethnologue (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Kundal Shahi" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kund1257>). Glottolog 3.0. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Baart & Rehman 2005, pp. 10–13.
4. Baart & Rehman 2005.
5. Baart 2003, pp. 3, 6.

## Bibliography and further reading

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- Baart, Joan L. G. (2003), Tonal features in languages of northern Pakistan ([http://www.fli-online.org/documents/linguistics/tone\\_in\\_np.pdf](http://www.fli-online.org/documents/linguistics/tone_in_np.pdf)) (PDF), National Institute of Pakistan Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University and Summer Institute of Linguistics, pp. 3, 6
- Baart, Joan L. G.; Rehman, Khawaja A. (2005). "A first look at the language of Kundal Shahi in Azad Kashmir" (<https://www.sil.org/resources/archives/7866>). SIL Electronic Working Papers.
- Rehman, Khawaja A. (2011). "Ergativity In Kundal Shahi, Kashmiri And Hindko". In Mark Turin; Bettina Ziesler (eds.). *Himalayan languages and linguistics: studies in phonology, semantics, morphology and syntax*. Brill's Tibetan studies library, Languages of the greater Himalayan region. Leiden: Brill. pp. 219–234. ISBN 978-90-04-19448-9.
- Rehman, Khawaja A. (2011). *Language Shift In the Neelam Valley: A Case Study of the Kundal Shahi Language* (PhD). Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

## External links

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- [ELAR archive of Documentation of the Kundal Shahi Language, Kundal Shahi, Pakistan \(http://elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/0294\)](http://elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/0294)

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